

A NEW EPIPHYTIC SPECIES OF *SENECIO* (ASTERACEAE: SENECEONEAE)  
FROM VERACRUZ, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Nelsonianthus* was recently proposed to accommodate its only described species, *N. epiphyticus*, which occurs in Guatemala and adjacent Chiapas, México. The genus would appear to be a segregate from the sect. *Terminales* of *Senecio*, sensu Greenman, a position essentially adopted by Barkley (1985). If accepted, the genus *Nelsonianthus* is now known by an additional species, *S. tapianus*, described here from near Xalapa, Veracruz, México.

KEY WORDS: *Nelsonianthus*, *Senecio*, Senecioneae, Asteraceae, México.

The epiphytic species, *Nelsonianthus epiphyticus* H. Robins. & Brettell, was first described by Robinson & Brettell (1973). Williams (1974) transferred this to the genus *Senecio*, where it was dubbed *S. armentalis* L. Williams (the name *S. epiphyticus* O. Ktze. being occupied). Barkley (1985) would include the species in his broad view of *Senecio*, a position which I follow here.

*Senecio tapianus* is readily distinguished from *S. armentalis* by its radiate heads and more numerous disk florets with shorter corollas.

*Senecio tapianus* B. Turner, *spec. nov.* (Figure 1). TYPE: MÉXICO. Veracruz: Mpio. Chiconquiaco, "Cima del Cerro del Borrego, entre planta del Pie y Buenavista. Bosque de Niebla suelo arcilloso con abundante materia organica asociada con *Quercus* spp." 21 Jan 1988, L. Tapia M. & J. Hernández P. 517 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!: Isotype: WIS).

*S. armentalis* similis sed foliis plerumque cordatis vel triangularibus petiolis longioribus, capitulis radiatis, et flosculis disci numerosioribus (15-20 vs ca 10) corollis brevioribus (ca 7 mm longis vs 10 mm) differt.

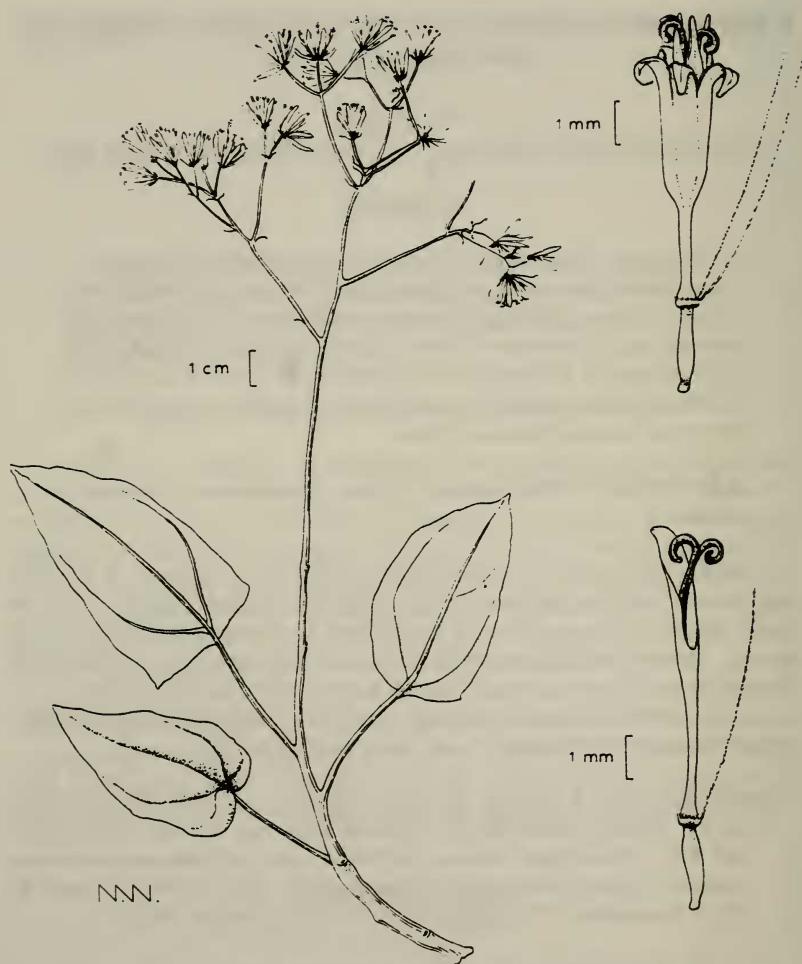


Fig 1 Senecio tapianus, from isotype

Epiphytic sarcocaulous herb or shrublet 20-50 cm high. Leaves mostly alternate, 8-12 cm long, 3-4 cm wide; petioles 2.5-3.5 cm long; blades broadly ovate, cordate to triangular, glabrous, trinervate from or near the base, the margins entire. Heads 20-30, borne terminal in an open cymose panicle, the primary peduncles glabrous, 6-12 cm long, the ultimate peduncles 0.5-1.5 cm long. Involucres 8-9 mm high, the linear lanceolate bracts 8, glabrous, equal, these subtended by (0)1-3 linear, calyculate bracts 1-3 mm long. Receptacle convex, ca 2 mm across, glabrous, epaleate. Ray florets 5, pistillate, fertile; ligules yellow, 2-3 mm long, ca 1 mm wide; tubes ca 4 mm long. Disk florets ca 20; corollas yellow, glabrous, ca 7 mm long, the tube ca 3.5 mm long, the throat ca 3 mm long, the lobes ca 0.5 mm long. Achenes ca 3 mm long, glabrous.

According to label data, the florets are yellow and the plant is said to be a "muy abundante epiphyte" at the locality concerned.

It is a pleasure to name this taxon for its principal collector who called it to my attention by letter, dated 11 Dec 1987, accompanied by a colored photograph of the plant. From the latter, I recognized its relationship to *Nelsonianthus epiphyticus* (= *Senecio armentalis*). Subsequently, examining pressed plants made by Mr. Tapia, I concluded that these represented an undescribed species and take great pleasure in naming this for its major collector, astute plant systematist who works out of INIREB, Xalapa (XAL).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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